

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 10

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Saint John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ and led people to Jesus. (CCC, 523, 719)
- The Apostles played a critical role in the continuation of Jesus' work and ministry. (CCC, 75-77)
- Just as Jesus sent the first disciples out to spread the Good News, he wants us to be a sign of the Kingdom of God and to follow Church teachings. (CCC, 935, 942)
- The Church has a rich and varied tradition of prayer. We must have a personal relationship with God nourished by prayer in order to answer our call to bring his love and truth to others. (CCC, 3, 2663)

Catechist Background

"If you will give these instructions to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching you have followed. ... Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity."—1 Timothy 4:6, 12

Reflect How can you help others to know and follow Jesus?

We usually think of discipleship as following the teachings of a spiritual master, and it certainly is that. There is another dimension to discipleship that we don't often reflect upon. The word "disciple" comes from the same root word as "discipline." In Christian terms, discipleship means engaging in the lifelong process of conforming our wills to the will of Jesus Christ.

It seems that conforming our wills to anything other than the pursuit of material happiness runs contrary to the values of contemporary western culture. We have been conditioned to think of personal freedom as the ultimate value, and any belief system that appears to inhibit our freedom is to be avoided at all costs. Christianity values freedom and happiness—in fact, we believe that Jesus sacrificed his life in order for us to be free and happy. Christ's definitions of freedom and happiness and those of the world are very different.

Some perceive freedom to be the same as choice. The more choices we have, the freer we feel and the happier we become. Yet, the growing anxiety level in our society would seem to disprove this; today, we have plenty of choices, but we seem to be less

happy. For Jesus, freedom and happiness were found in doing the will of his heavenly Father. Jesus lived a completely free life, yet it was a life of total obedience to God. This seeming paradox holds the key to a life of meaning and peace. Following the example of Jesus is the call of each baptized person.

Reflect In what way has your commitment to discipleship made you a freer person?

Catechist's Prayer

Jesus, throughout the ages you have called people of all backgrounds to follow you. You invite everyone to follow you; all that you require is our faith and our willingness to follow your example. Strengthen me to be a model of discipleship for those I teach. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Because seventh-graders want to fit in and are often insecure, “conformity” and “following the crowd” are big parts of their experience. However, few of them actually want to admit it. In fact, being a “follower” is considered a bad thing in most seventh-grade circles. For this reason, as we discuss discipleship as “following Jesus,” it’s important to emphasize that Jesus taught us what it means to be fully human. He showed us how to be all God made us to be.

Teaching Tip

Explain to the youth that one doesn’t have to already “have it together” to be a disciple, as shown by the lives of the Twelve Apostles. God will help us be the people we need to be if we are open to his grace. Peter was, at times, impulsive, stubborn, indecisive, and cowardly, but Jesus chose him to lead his Church. Lead a discussion on Peter and why Jesus chose him. What can we learn about ourselves from Peter’s story? (Hint: Compare the impulsive and cowardly Peter in the Gospels with the bold and fearless Peter in the second chapter of Acts.)

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

At this age, young people often struggle with the conflicting values of establishing their own unique leadership styles or going along with the crowd.

- Among their peers, seventh graders often perceive leadership as aggressive behavior. Teaching and modeling gentle, virtue-driven leadership shows them that there are other possibilities.
- Young people often learn more by who we are than what we say. Therefore, the joyful living out of our discipleship is one of the most important aspects of catechesis.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is “known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer” (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Teaching to Pray

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Prayer

- Objective: To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one’s spiritual life

Catholic Faith Literacy

disciples, Pope, prayer, spirituality

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, pages 342–343; or Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Théodora (Anne-Thérèse Guérin) on page 180. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 180, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 10 for the prayer on page 181.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "Litany," Live, Page 181

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 10

Invite Page 171

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader prayer.

Have the group pray the Psalm verses and the group response. Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that our prayer today challenges us to be a disciple of Jesus.

Say: Jesus, provides the perfect image of what it means to love God and spread the Good News of his love to others. In today's reading, we are called to be an example to others of Jesus' love.

† Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: The disciples believed so strongly in Jesus and his message that they responded wholeheartedly to his command to spread the Good News of God's Kingdom to everyone.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 174-175

Objectives

- Recognize that Saint John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ and led people to Jesus
- Analyze why the first disciples followed Jesus

Teaching Activity: Following Jesus

Participants will compose an email describing how being in a different situation with a friend can teach us something new about that person. They will search the room for various scrolls that contain the different reasons people followed Jesus during his time on Earth. The group will hang the scrolls on the wall and participants will stand next to the scroll that inspires them to be one of Jesus' disciples.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the Email form, Scrolls, and the Catholic Faith Words page tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Roll up each scroll and secure them with a rubber band. Hide five of the scrolls in easy to find places around the room. Hide one scroll in a harder to find place.

Activity Directions

Say: To help a friendship grow, to deepen a relationship, you must invest time and energy. Over long periods of time friends discover new things about each other. Think about a time that you went somewhere with a friend and learned something new about him or her. Perhaps you went to a game, a movie, a dance, or away to camp. Or maybe you went with your friend's family on vacation. What new thing did you learn about your friend?

Distribute copies of the email handout to the participants.

Say: Write a short e-mail to your parents about something you learned about your friend. It could be something great or something not so great. Write about what seeing your friend in a new situation has taught you about him or her.

Invite some volunteers to share their e-mails.

Say: Spending long periods of time with someone helps us to know more about what he or she thinks, feels, and believes. Remember John the Baptist? He was the man who lived at the same time of Jesus, a preacher who had many followers. He was also Jesus' cousin. He announced the need to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus was a different kind of teacher. In the Gospels we hear that some of John's followers came to believe in Jesus. Jesus called others to come and follow him.

Point out the Catholic Faith Word and ask a volunteer to read the definition of disciple.

Say: We call the followers of Jesus disciples, people who believed in him. Learned his teachings and put them into practice. The longer they accompanied Jesus on his journey, the more they learned from what they saw and heard. Around this room are six scrolls that include phrases that will remind us what the disciples saw and heard. Search for a scroll and return to your seat when you find one.

When all the scrolls are found, ask the young people to read them aloud, one at a time. Ask the group to think of an example from the Bible of what was read. Have the participants tape the scrolls up in different parts of the room. When all of the scrolls are hung, ask the youth to go and stand by the one phrase that would have inspired them to follow Christ.

Discover (2) Pages 176-177

Objectives

- Describe the importance of the Apostles in continuing Jesus' ministry
- Discover sources that contain the official teachings of the Church

A Community of Believers

Invite the youth to silently read this section. • Ask: Why did Jesus want his disciples to "travel light"? ***He wanted them to trust God the Father to take care of them***

We Receive Guidance

Read aloud this section.

- Explain that Jesus trusted his Apostles to teach everyone what he taught them, and to spread the Good News of his love that restored our relationship with God the Father.
- Discuss the photo on page 177.
- Ask: How does this image connect to the reading?

† Go to the Source

Organize the young people into three small groups and assign each group one of the Gospel references.

- Ask each group to list the names of the Apostles in their Gospel.
- Invite the young people to share their findings and to note the differences between the Gospels as they arise.

Work with Words

Invite the youth to circle all four vocabulary terms in the text on pages 176 and 177.

- See if they can define or explain the words by the way they are used on these pages.
- As the young people share what they believe each word means, ask a volunteer to follow each description with the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have the youth work on their own to match each source of Church teachings with its description.

- Review the correct answers as a group.

Quick Review

Jesus taught the Twelve Apostles what he wanted the Church to know so they would pass it on. The teachings of the Catholic Church today are still the teachings that Jesus first gave to his Apostles. We can use Church teachings to guide our lives.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 10: The Chosen Twelve** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 178-179**Objectives**

- Identify the characteristics of a disciple in the world today
- Recall the Church's rich and varied tradition of prayer

Read aloud the opening question. Tell the young people they will learn the answer in today's lesson.

Disciples in the Church Today

Have a volunteer read aloud this section.

- Emphasize the last sentence of the second paragraph.
- Direct the youth to underline the things in the paragraph that we can do together.
- Ask them to offer more examples of their own.

† Scripture

Proclaim John 8:12.

A Praying Community

Direct the young people to scan the first paragraph of this section to find and highlight the list of the five types of prayers Christians pray (blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, or praise) and to circle the entire second paragraph because it is so important.

Have the youth silently read the rest of this section on page 178.

Schools of Prayer

Review the content of the chart with the group.

- Direct the youth to place a checkmark next to the “schools” of prayer they have already experienced.
- Invite them to share the name of someone who taught them how to pray in one of these ways.

Activity

Ask the young people to read the instructions and brainstorm some responses.

- Discuss their responses as group.

In Summary

Read aloud the opening sentence.

- Have the young people read over the three bullet points as if they were teachers.
- Direct them to make up one test question for each bullet point.
- Have the youth exchange their questions with a partner.
- See if they can answer their partner’s question.

Live Pages 180-181

Objectives

- Examine contemplative prayer
- Explore the faith life of Saint Théodora (Anne-Thérèse Guérin)
- Offer the Litany of the Saints prayer

Our Catholic Life

Ask the young people to silently read the Our Catholic Life content.

- Have them journal a response about contemplative prayer versus other types of prayer.
- Allow volunteers to share their thoughts.

People of Faith

Explain to the youth that Saint Théodora had a strong faith that did not waiver due to hardships.

- Have a volunteer read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the content found in the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to discuss hardships they have seen others rise above.
- Encourage the young people who choose to research Saint Théodora from home to bring back the information they find and share it with the group.

Here are some additional details about Saint Théodora to assist you in presenting this section:

- Mother Théodora committed her life to teaching, healing, and caring for the needy. She is an excellent example of someone who, despite many challenges, answered God's call and accepted her mission.
- In addition to founding the first Catholic liberal arts college for women in the United States, Théodora also founded eleven other schools, two orphanages, and gave free medicine to those in need.

Activity

Have the youth read the directions and work on the activity independently.

Litany of the Saints

Appoint one volunteer to serve as the leader and have the rest of the group respond.

- Give the young people a few minutes to read over the passages.
- Call the group to prayer by reading the first leader line yourself.
- Have the leader begin with the section about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by playing the song, or inviting the youth to sing, "Litany," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 10 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Disciples in Community Page 171	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 23:1,3 Pray the opening prayer. 1 Timothy 4:6, 12 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
A Surprise Invitation Pages 174–175 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that Saint John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ and led people to Jesus • Analyze why the first disciples followed Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will explore the different reasons people followed Jesus during his time on Earth. 	Email Form, Scrolls, Catholic Faith Words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens, tape
A Community of Believers Pages 176–177 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the importance of the Apostles in continuing Jesus' ministry • Discover sources that contain the official teachings of the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and Reflect on Matthew 10:1–4, Mark 3:13–19, and Luke 6:12–16. • Discuss the role of the Apostles in spreading the Good News. • Activity Match Church teachings with their source. • Activity Master The Chosen Twelve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles <input type="checkbox"/> Church teaching sources Activity Master 10
Disciples in the Church Today Pages 178–179 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the characteristics of a disciple in the world today • Recall the Church's rich and varied tradition of prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about ways to be a disciple. • Discuss different types of prayer. Read John 8:12. ★ Indicate which of the three “schools” of prayer have been experienced. • Consider ways to apply Jesus' teachings on discipleship. • Activity Youth will list people who could help them pray on of the three “schools” of prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bible <input type="checkbox"/> highlighters
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Théodora. • Activity Focus on the qualities of a disciple seen in others. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Litany of the Saints Page 181	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a volunteer to serve as the leader. • Follow the order of prayer. 	“Litany”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

disciples; Apostles; Church; apostolic, as a Mark of the Church; doctrine

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 182

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](https://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com) Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

The Chosen Twelve

Refer to the Scripture passages mentioned on pages 174–176 to fill in each blank below. When a line has a number beneath it, transfer that letter to the blank marked with that number at the bottom of the page. When you are finished, the letters that have been transferred to the bottom of the page will spell an important message.

1. _____ the _____ was a popular preacher in Jesus' time.
6 13 18
2. Philip invited his friend to meet Jesus by saying "_____."
2 11 22
3. Zebedee's sons were also called the "_____."
24 27
4. Thomas was called _____, which means "the twin."
20 3
5. In the Gospel according to Mark, Matthew is called _____.
8 21 26
6. Jesus told his disciples not to carry _____ or a _____ stick.
14 23 10 7 19
7. If a town didn't welcome them, they were to shake the dust of that town from their _____.
4
8. Jesus gave _____ the new name, _____.
9 28
9. Don't _____ Jude _____ with
1 5 25 12 15
Judas _____.
16
10. _____ called himself "the tax collector."
17

THE MESSAGE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	7	8
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	7	26	27	28									

Name _____

Date _____

Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| ___ 1. Official Church teachings on matters of faith and morals | a. disciples |
| ___ 2. All the laws of the Church | b. Sacred Scripture |
| ___ 3. People who learn from and follow the example of a teacher | c. doctrine |
| ___ 4. The Old and New Testaments of the Bible | d. Code of Canon Law |

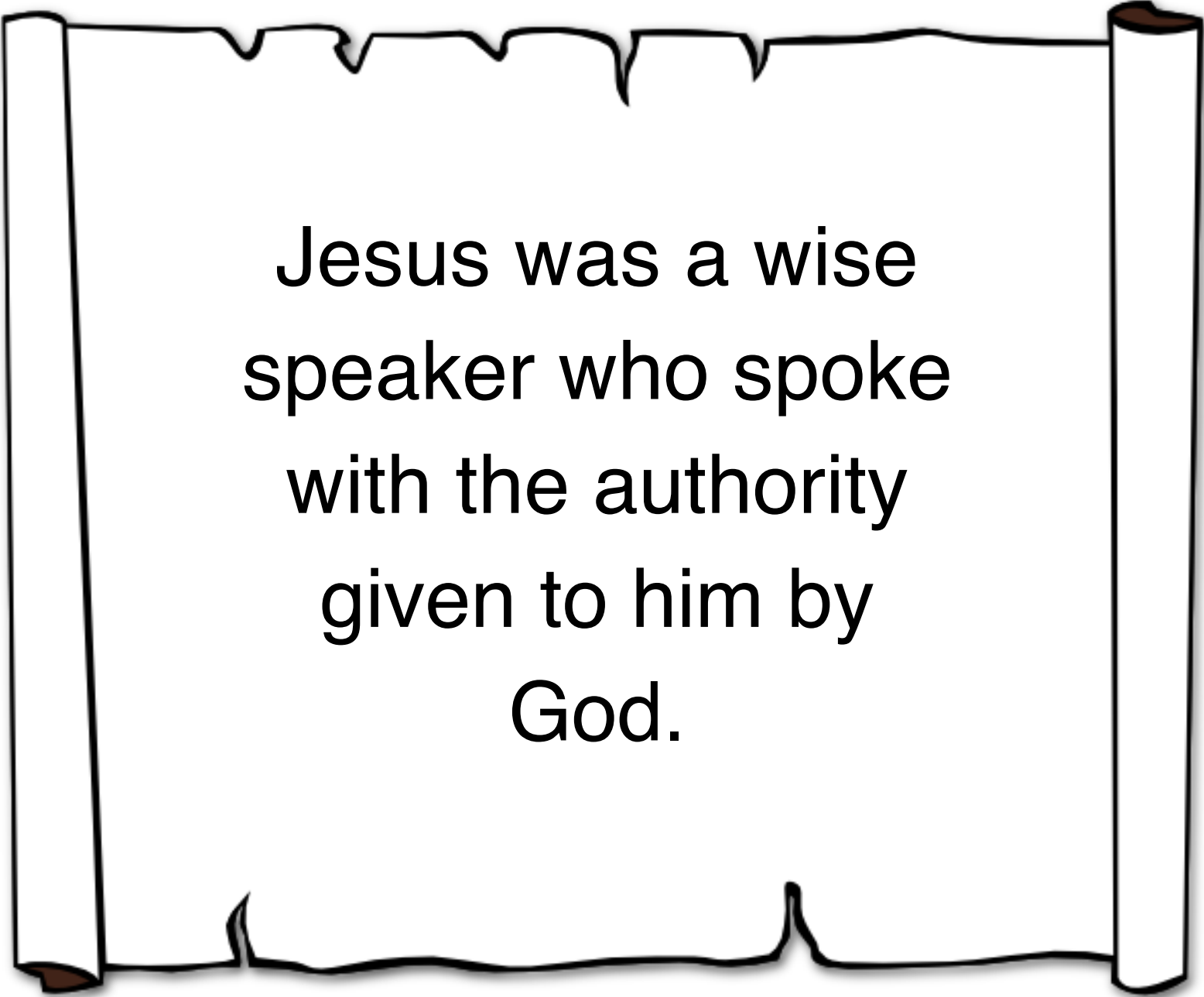
Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

5. The ___ are the twelve men Jesus chose to be his closest followers and to share in his work and mission in a special way.
- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| a. disciples | c. Gospels |
| b. Apostles | d. followers of John the Baptist |
6. Jesus told his disciples to “travel light” because he wanted them to ____.
- | |
|---|
| a. have total dependence on God the Father to take care of them |
| b. get away quickly if there was trouble |
| c. find out how hard it is to be poor |
| d. go without things |
7. The ___ is the community of all baptized people who believe in the Holy Trinity and follow Jesus.
- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| a. Apostles | c. Church |
| b. Magisterium | d. Communion of Saints |
8. The Church is ___ because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his chosen Apostles.
- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| a. catholic | b. holy | c. Papal | d. apostolic |
|-------------|---------|----------|--------------|

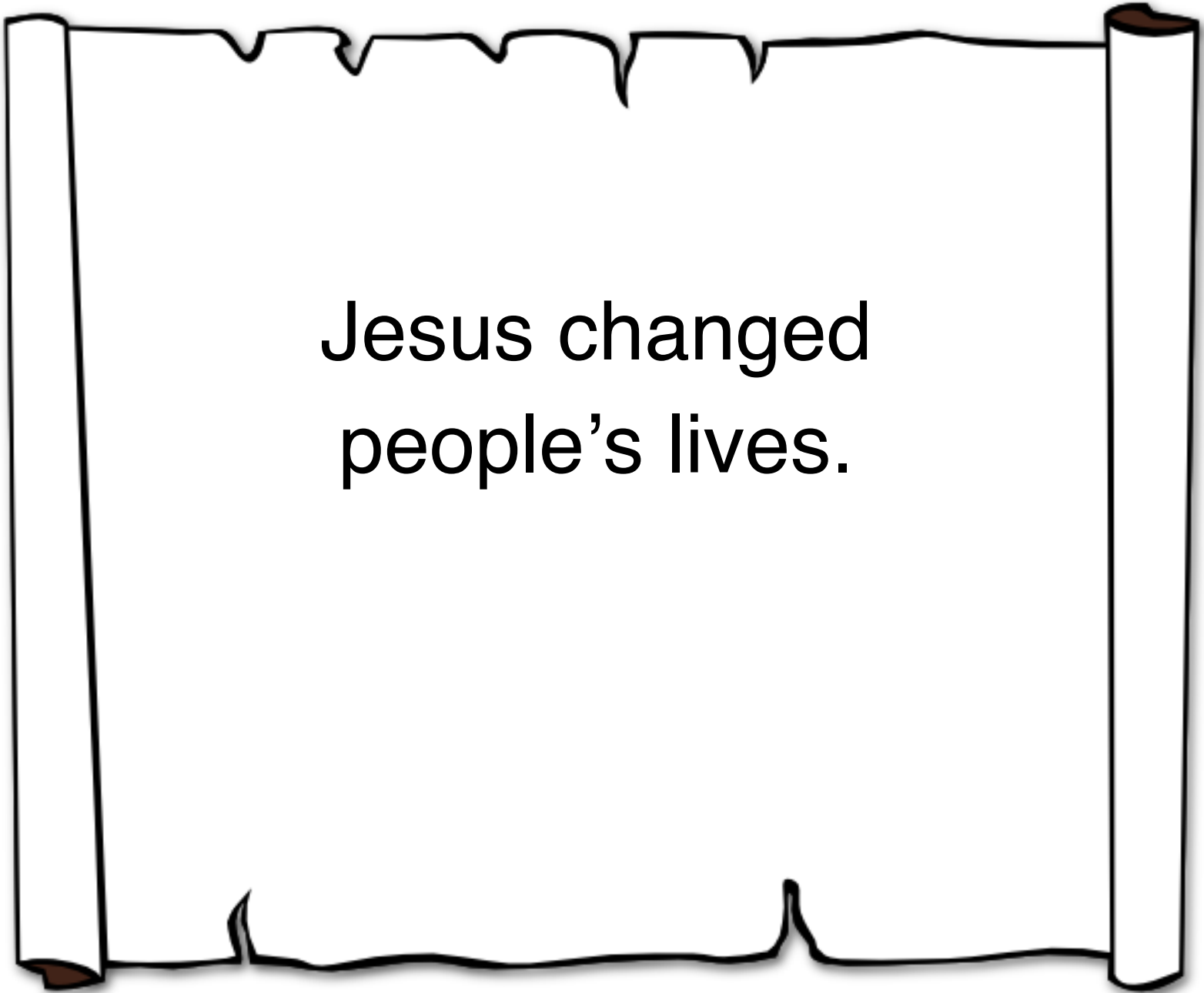
Write a response on the lines below.

9. What do you think attracted people to following Jesus? _____
- _____

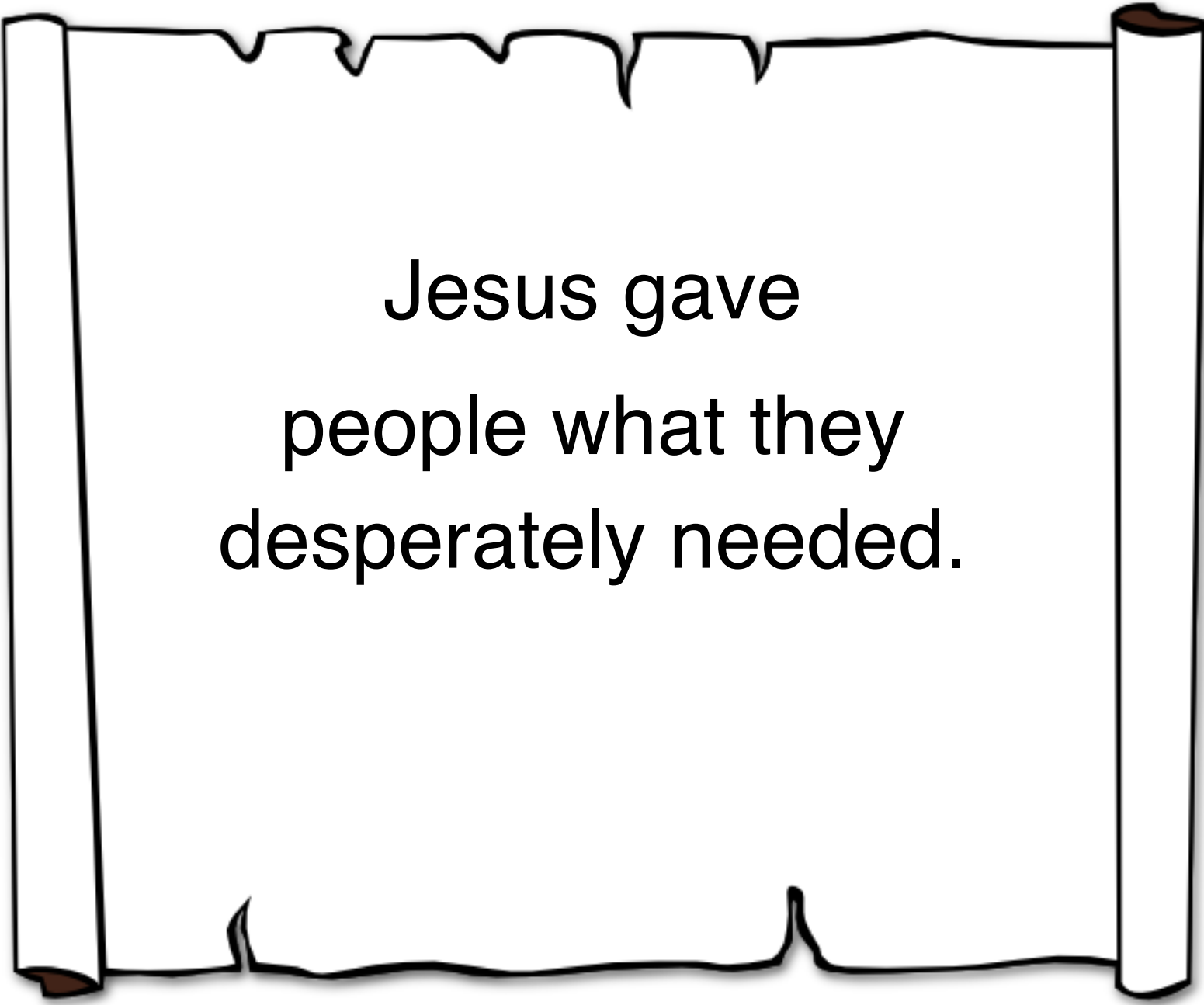
10. How is the Church our guide in all parts of our lives and in everything we do?
- _____
- _____




Jesus was a wise
speaker who spoke
with the authority
given to him by
God.



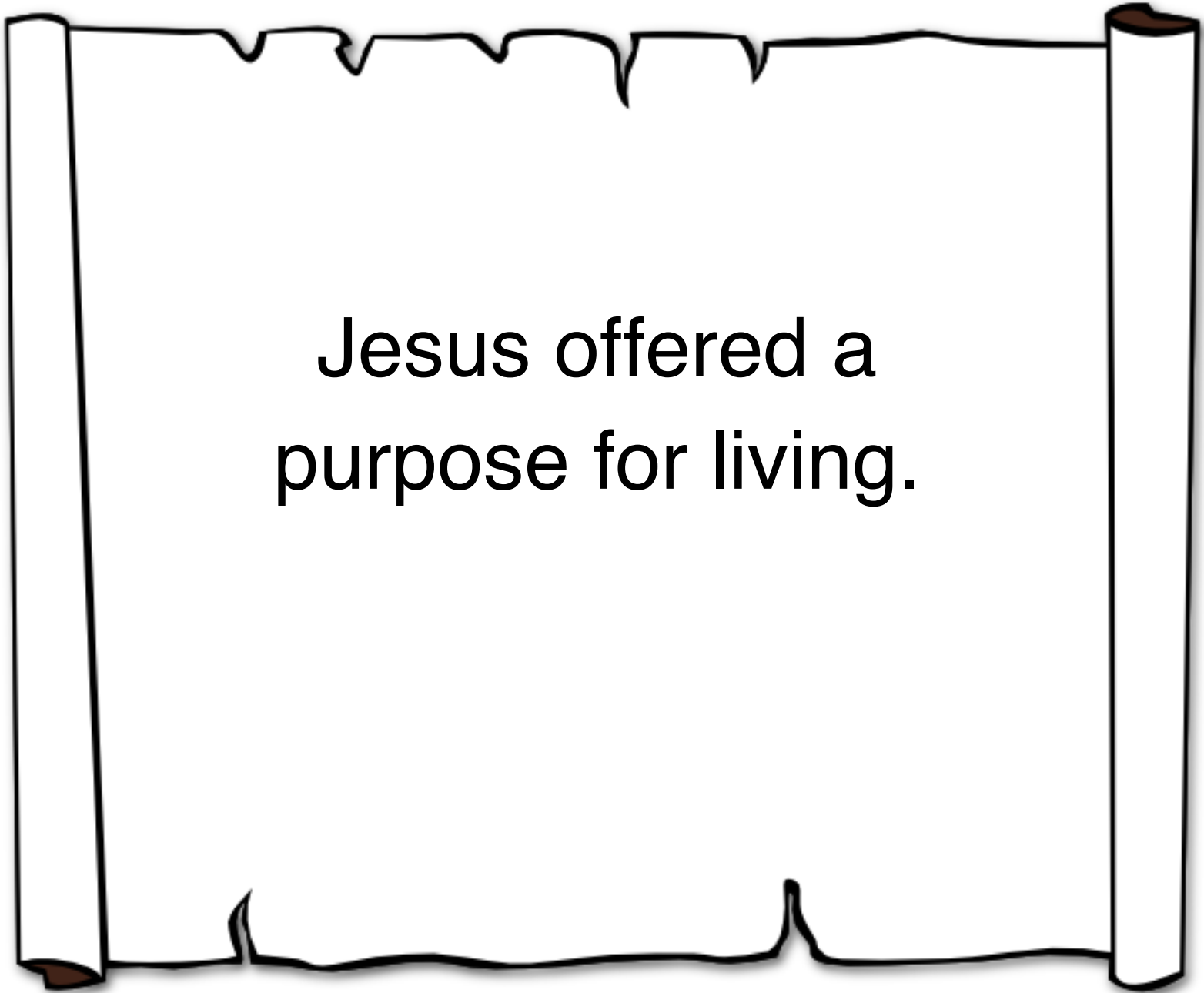
Jesus changed
people's lives.



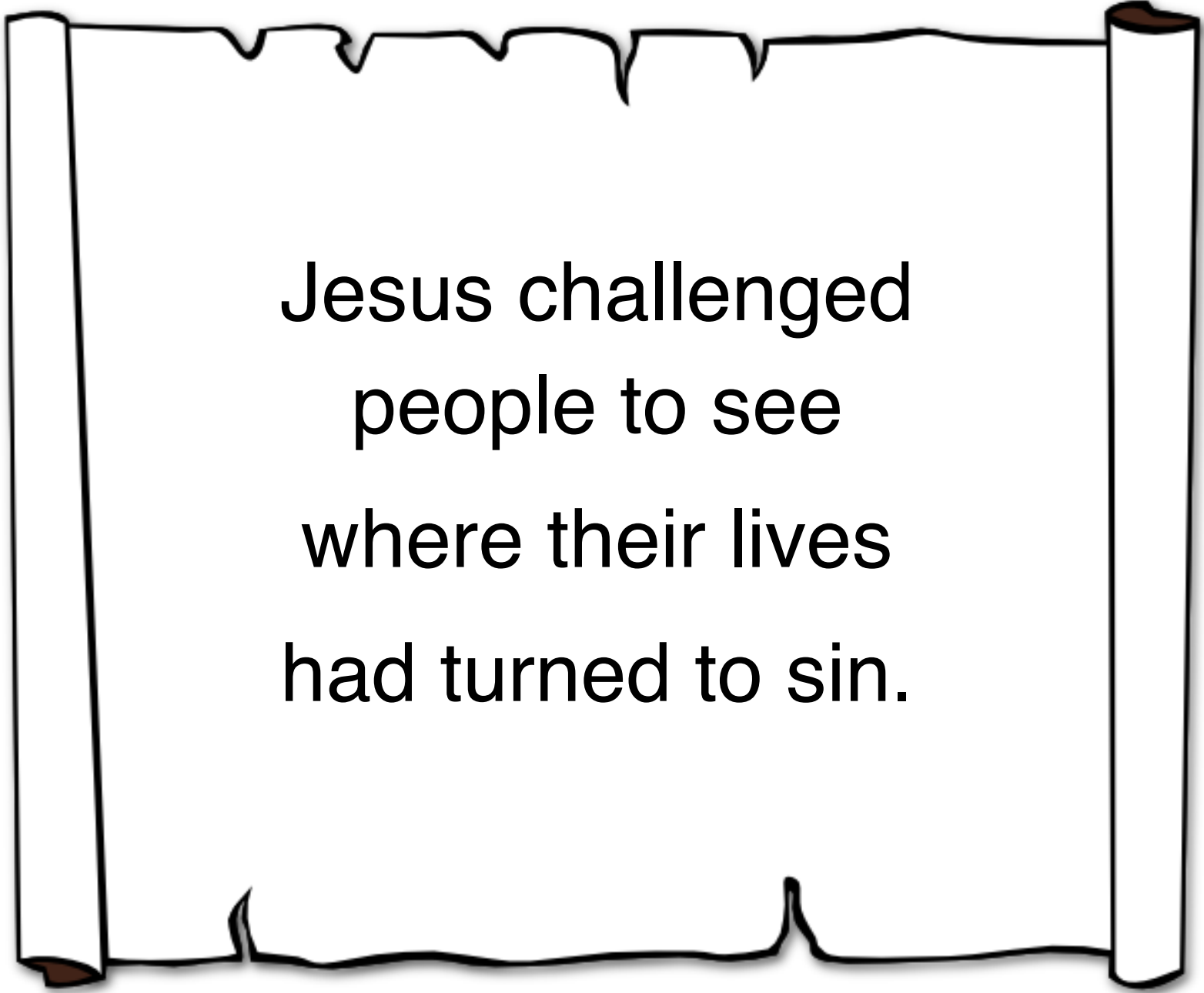
Jesus gave
people what they
desperately needed.



Jesus offered
God's love and
compassion.



Jesus offered a
purpose for living.



Jesus challenged
people to see
where their lives
had turned to sin.

Catholic Faith Words

disciples people who learn from and follow the example of a teacher. The disciples of Jesus are those who believe in him, follow his teachings, and put them into practice.